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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /051 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
/AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG 542
USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, JM, MZ, PO
SUBJECT: JAMAICAN AND PORTUGUESE DELEGATIONS VISIT MOZAMBIQUE
TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

1. SUMMARY. DURING LATE AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER TWO DELEGATIONS (ONE PORTUGUESE AND ONE JAMAICAN) VISITED MOZAMBIQUE TO STUDY POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR. JAMAICAN DELEGATION MAY ALSO HAVE DISCUSSED MACHEL'S RUMORED TRIP TO JAMAICA. END SUMMARY.

2. JOHN STEPHENSON, MINISTER OF STATE OF JAMAICA, ACCOMPANIED BY THE COUNSELOR FROM HIS MINISTRY, PAID A VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE FROM AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 2. TRIP RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRESS. STEPHENSON VISITED THE BEACH RESORTS OF INHACA AND BILEME AND THE GAME PARK AT GORONGOSA.

3. STEPHENSON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THERE WERE POSSI-
BILITIES FOR JAMAICAN AID IN TRAINING MOZAMBICAN TOURISM
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PERSONNEL IN JAMAICA AND AID THE IMPROVEMENT OF TRANS-
PORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES TO TOURISM SITES.

4. A DELEGATION FROM THE PORTUGUESE NATIONAL CENTER FOR TOURISM AND HOTEL TRAINING ARRIVED IN MAPUTO FOR THE OPEN-
ING OF THE FIRST MOZAMBICAN HOTEL-MANAGEMENT TRAINING SCHOOL, AUGUST 29. THE EXACT ROLE OF THE PORTUGUESE IN THE SCHOOL

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WAS NOT DISCLOSED, BUT WAS REPORTED TO BE A RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE STATE SECRETARIAT FOR TOURISM AND THE MOZAMBICAN NATIONAL CENTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM. NINETY MOZAMBIANS ARE TAKING THE SIX-MONTH COURSE, WHICH INCLUDES "POLITICAL EDUCATION," PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH INSTRUCTION.

5. COMMENT. BEFORE INDEPENDENCE IN 1975, MOZAMBIQUE WAS A POPULAR HOLIDAY SPOT FOR SOUTH AFRICANS AND RHODESIANS, AND TOURISM WAS AN IMPORTANT EARNER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. FOR POLITICAL REASONS (INCLUDING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING MOZAMBIQUE VISAS), THIS HAS ENDED, ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE INSFRASTRUCTURE REMAINS. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOW BE THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT GRADUALLY REOPENING THE COUNTRY TO TOURISM.

6. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS LINKED VISIT OF MINISTER OF STATE STEPHENSON TO POSSIBLE JAMAICAN ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE'S TOURIST INDUSTRY, REAL PURPOSE OF STEPHENSON'S TRIP MAY HAVE BEEN TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR RUMORED VISIT OF PRESIDENT MACHEL TO JAMAICA. FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS LOCAL DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ABUZZ WITH SPECULATION THAT MACHEL IS PLANNING TO VISIT JAMAICA AND CUBA IN ADDITION TO UNITED NATIONS THIS FALL.
CARSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: ETRD, JM, MZ, PO, (STEPHENSON, JOHN)
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